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2. *Procedure*.—Without touching it with the finger, the dead rat must, with the aid of tongs or a small shovel, be placed in a glass box provided for the purpose by the Bacteriological Institute.

The glass box should first be taken out of the exterior box in which it is to be transmitted. The glass box must then, after being carefully closed with a glass cover and carefully cleaned with water (or where practicable with a carbolic solution), be wrapped in blotting paper and laid in the exterior box. The latter should be marked with a card, giving date, place where the rat was found, and name of the finder. It should then be closed with tacks which can be easily removed.

If sent by post the tacks should be covered with sealing wax. The box should be further secured with cord in both directions and should be marked—

“HANDLE WITH CARE.

To be delivered by special messenger.”

The boxes referred to can be obtained at the medical department in the office of the free port and at the following police stations and other places.

GIBRALTAR.

Declaration of infection against Alexandria and Lisbon canceled.

GIBRALTAR, November 25, 1899.

The notification by the board of health, published on May 27 and on the 13th instant, respectively, declaring the ports of Alexandria and Lisbon to be infected ports, are hereby canceled by the board.

By order :

JOHN C. KING,
Secretary to the Board of Health.

ITALY.

Report from Naples.

NAPLES, ITALY, November 29, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to report that for the week ended November 29, 1899, the following ships were inspected :

November 25, steamship *Karamania*, of the Anchor Line, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 366 steerage passengers and 79 pieces of large and 369 pieces of small baggage.

November 24, steamship *Auguste Victoria*, of the Hamburg American Line, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 26 cabin and 582 steerage passengers and 187 pieces of large and 639 pieces of small baggage.

Respectfully,

ENRICO BUONOCORE,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

JAPAN.

Report from Yokohama—Plague in Kobe.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, November 15, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith my regular report of infectious diseases in Japan for period October 21 to November 10, inclusive.

It will be observed that, despite the onset of cooler weather, dysentery

continues severely epidemic, and is little less fatal than during the warmer months.

The most important matter in the present report is, however, the appearance of plague in Japan at two widely separated points and outside of the quarantine stations. The general statistics being available only to the 10th instant, but 1 case is reported in Hiogo Ken. I regret to state that 3 other cases have since occurred, and that 3 proved fatal, while the fourth was yesterday reported as dying.

The history of the case in Hiroshima Ken is, briefly, as follows:

The steamer *Omi Maru* arrived at Hiroshima (town) from Formosa on the 4th. On the 5th, 1 of her passengers from Formosa, who had landed, was reported as ill of a suspicious malady, and died the same night with all the symptoms of plague, a diagnosis which was confirmed by bacteriological examination. So far, no second case has been reported from that locality.

Of the cases in Hiogo Ken, which have all been confined to a small suburb of the city of Kobe, the following is the official history: On the 7th instant an employee of a dealer in junk and the lower class of imported goods was suddenly attacked by a disease apparently plague, dying on the evening of the 8th. A microscopic examination showed the plague bacillus, and animals inoculated with the blood of the patient speedily died with the usual lesions of pest. A second man in the vicinity, a wagoner handling imports, died on the 11th, of undoubted plague; on the 12th a third fatal case occurred in the neighborhood, and a fourth, not far off, is reported as moribund.

So far as investigation has progressed, no connection with the previous case at Hiroshima has been detected, or with the steamer which brought the latter from Formosa. It is found, however, that all the victims were engaged in handling, or came in contact with, a certain lot of cotton recently imported from Niuchang, China, where plague has been severely epidemic.

The district in Kobe in which the outbreak took place has been strictly isolated.

The Government seems fully awake to the impending danger and has dispatched Professor Kitasato, with several assistants, to Kobe, as well as an expert force of sanitary police. A conference of leading sanitarians was convened at the home department on the 12th to consider what steps should be taken in the emergency beyond those already provided for in the regulations for the prevention of infectious disease.

The situation seems so grave that I, this morning, notified you of the outbreak by cable, at the same time recommending the appointment of a medical officer at Kobe, a port with frequent and extensive maritime connection with the United States.

The season is perhaps much in our favor, although frost can scarcely be expected before late in December.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.